

The sound behind the wall

Fiction | 6 questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read once for the main idea. Look back at the passage while answering. Find words that support each answer.

At first, the tapping seemed to follow Isla wherever she went. In the kitchen it was a faint tick; in the hallway it became a sharper knock. Upstairs, beside the unused bedroom, she could hardly hear it at all.

Her brother suggested a loose shutter. Isla went outside and looked up. Every shutter was still. The tapping continued even when the wind dropped, so she crossed that idea off the list she had started in her notebook.

They walked through the house again. This time, Isla marked the places where the sound was loudest. All three were close to the pipe that ran behind the hallway wall. Her brother listened while she turned off the kitchen tap. For a moment, the sound stopped. Then it returned when the tap was opened.

Their father listened to the recording they had made and said he would arrange for someone to check the pipe. Isla was disappointed. She had hoped to discover a hidden room or an animal nesting somewhere unusual.

That evening, her brother pointed to the notebook. "You still found out something," he said. "You didn't start with the pipe."

Isla added one final line: Sound changes when the tap changes. She left the word "cause" out of it. They had found a useful connection, but a person who knew about pipes would need to decide what was actually happening. Closing the notebook felt less dramatic than opening a secret door, yet it felt more satisfying than she had expected.

Questions

Choose one answer for each question. You can refer to the passage. The answer notes start on a separate page.

1. Where was the sound hardest to hear?

- A. In the hallway
- B. Beside the unused bedroom
- C. Near the kitchen pipe
- D. Outside beneath the shutters

2. What change temporarily stopped the tapping?

- A. Opening the bedroom door
- B. Moving a shutter
- C. Turning off the kitchen tap
- D. Starting the recording

3. What does “faint” describe in the first paragraph?

- A. A quiet sound that is difficult to hear
- B. A sudden loss of strength
- C. A bright mark on the wall
- D. A sound that never stops

4. Why did Isla reject the shutter explanation?

- A. Her brother did not like the idea
- B. The shutters stayed still and the sound continued without wind
- C. The unused bedroom was locked
- D. Her father had already repaired the pipe

5. Why did Isla avoid writing “cause” in her final note?

- A. She could no longer hear the sound anywhere
- B. She had observed a connection but had not established the exact fault
- C. She wanted to keep the discovery secret
- D. She believed the notebook was inaccurate

6. How does Isla’s response change by the end?

- A. She decides her first idea must have been correct
- B. She begins to value a careful finding even though it is less dramatic
- C. She stops recording anything that happens
- D. She becomes certain an animal caused the tapping

Answers and explanations

Try the questions before reading these notes. A practice score is not an exam grade.

1. B. Beside the unused bedroom

The first paragraph says Isla could hardly hear it upstairs beside the unused bedroom.

2. C. Turning off the kitchen tap

The sound stopped when the kitchen tap was turned off and returned when it was opened.

3. A. A quiet sound that is difficult to hear

Here “faint” modifies the tick, describing its low volume.

4. B. The shutters stayed still and the sound continued without wind

Two observations work against it: still shutters and tapping when the wind drops.

5. B. She had observed a connection but had not established the exact fault

The final paragraph distinguishes the observed connection from an expert decision about what is happening.

6. B. She begins to value a careful finding even though it is less dramatic

She initially hopes for a hidden room, but later finds the careful conclusion more satisfying than expected.

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